



Zero Waste Arlington January 2021 Minutes

Date: January 28, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: *Online Google Meet*

Attendees:

Committee Members - Charlotte Milan, Sarah Kmetz, Paul Goldberg, Larry Slotnick, Scott Mullen, Jim Ballin, Priya Sankalia, Meghan Correa

Unable to attend: Allison LaValley, Emily Dertz

Residents - Julie Benyo, Rachel Oliveri, Nancy Gray, Seema Khan, Susan Brau, Elise Clarkson, Cate Barr, Cecily Miller

Minutes

- Old Business
 - Review and approve November and December meeting minutes
- New Business
 - No Plastic Please campaign update
 - Zero Waste: Community Conversations Series Update
 - Communications sub-committee update
 - Recycling coordinator update
- New Business items

Approval of Minutes:

- The committee voted and approved the November and December minutes

No Plastics Please campaign update:

- Larry introduced campaigns and how at ZWA we are organizing ourselves in launching them
- Meghan gave new attendees an update about the campaign and how we are holding off on a restaurant level for now because of Covid
- Working on a social media level approach now - targeting the customers who go to the restaurants for now.
- Meghan will be speaking at the Sustainable Arlington Feb meeting about the campaign
- Emily is working with green teams to help spread the message
- The promotion material has been updated to say summer 2021
- Seema has reached out to Mystic Valley Watershed Assoc for collaborations

- Cecily had idea of bringing in artist talk - she will talk to Emily about this
- Cecily suggested a film screening - maybe we can present it during the Arl Int Film Festival.

Recycling Coordinator Update:

- Charlotte gave update the update by starting with reading out Arlington's Land Acknowledgement - suggested we do this every time
- Budget question - do we want to increase our \$3,000 committee budget? - Larry gave an update on our expenses and suggested we increase the budget by \$500. Larry will discuss with other committee members and get back to Charlotte
- Fixit Clinics - are still going on -
 - Stratton Green team to fix holiday lights.
 - Public clinics planned online 3/28 and 3/29. It is a big community event around not throwing everything away. It can be online.
 - Check out Fixitclinic.org Rachel updated committee with how these work. They are international; you can sign up if you want to fix something or just drop in.
- Charlotte is teaching a class ACE - Feb 9 7-8:30
- New Recycling Center update - Rachel needs volunteers in moving plastic bags to super markets - there are still slots remaining. 8 in the area accepting them - thank you volunteers (sign up - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4dacac2fa64-plastic>)
- Charlotte talked about black plastic and toxicity - pertinent to no plastic please campaign - <https://www.vice.com/en/article/zm8z5j/black-plastic-recycling-ewaste-problem-toxic-chemicals>
- Trash tonnage update (presentation will be included in the minutes)
 - Julie brought up the point that people might be throwing away more because it is not recyclable but the recycling weight has also gone up.
 - Larry added that all the programs are designed to reduce the tonnage numbers - everything from fixit clinics, recycling center, encouraging kitchen waste
- Program to get govt to purchase PCR (post-consumer-recycling)
 - Charlotte proposes that ZWA participate in this program. Larry concurred that we should support this as a committee.
 - We can do public campaigns on encouraging users to buy recycled material.

<https://nerc.org/documents/NERC-NEWMOA%20webinars/Government%20Recycling%20Demand%20Champions%20Introduction.pdf>

Community Conversation Series Update:

- Larry gave an update on the series - this is replacing our interactions with Arlington residents
- Mully will be moderating

- We will be getting a Zoom account
- First session will be on Recycling IQ
- Priya added that we have picked a name for the series - Earth to Arlington - Let's talk about your trash
- We need ideas for more topics - we will be hosting 4 a year (one every quarter)

Communications sub-committee update:

- Larry gave an update on the newsletter.
 - Seema will help out with this - the idea is that we have a small blurb which she will share with Charlotte to put on the website.
 - We need content from people. Ideas for a blurb, a paragraph.
- Charlotte suggested we plan a calendar a year out - seasonal calendar - solicit ideas depending on the season, organic material at certain times of the year - do something over the course of the year - certain themes close to people's minds in Arlington. Charlotte says we could do this in a more coordinated way
- Several people suggested content sources
 - Cambridge Newsletter - <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Services/CurbsideCollections>
 - Subscribe to Cambridge recycling emailer at https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001yXRI0zz83tU_akvi8IJbsiFKUj4mhEmlx1yW7DcUnQMrw5jnY1tpZTZ1w81ZLsCsoQWTBapgwtrwbWrbdtH8W9uDRW0u9SlpO480a5UfCSIY5I5FzrgAVzsDk3HDvl_8mHv-FY4vv0Ps0PQ4P8YnjhCW33BUP5Fe0h1ojO4JoA%3D
 - The Recycling Partnership, Recyclesmartma.org